

give these countries a forum for deeper consultations with the alliance and greater participation in decisionmaking for operations to which they contribute. The enhancement of the Partnership For Peace will also speed countries along the road to eligibility for NATO membership.

To conclude, Mr. Secretary General, our position is that we should decide today to admit three countries to the alliance. Since this is an irreversible step, we should offer membership to those countries that are irreversibly com-

mitted to democratic reforms, while keeping the door firmly open to the admission of other countries in the future.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 11 a.m. at the Juan Carlos Conference Center, but a transcript of his remarks was not available. This item follows the advance text released by the Office of the Press Secretary. In his remarks, the President referred to NATO Secretary General Javier Solana and President of the Government (Prime Minister) Jose Maria Aznar of Spain.

## Memorandum on the John D. Dingell Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center

*July 8, 1997*

*Memorandum for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs*

*Subject:* John D. Dingell Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center

A veteran of World War II, a local prosecutor, and since 1955, representing the people of Michigan in the Congress, John D. Dingell has served his country and his State with distinction for over 50 years. Furthermore, throughout his career Congressman Dingell has championed both quality health care and veterans' rights. I therefore take great pleasure in honoring Con-

gressman Dingell by naming the VA Medical Center in Detroit after him.

Thus, in recognition of Congressman Dingell's leadership and exemplary service to our country, I direct that the VA facility located at 4646 John R. in Detroit, Michigan, hereafter be known as the John D. Dingell Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. You are directed to take such further actions as necessary to effect the naming of this facility for Congressman Dingell.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

## Remarks to the Community at the United States Embassy in Madrid

*July 8, 1997*

Thank you. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. I thank all of you for being here, for all the service that you have given either through this Embassy or through our NATO mission. Whether you are an American working for some branch of the United States Government or a foreign national who has contributed to our success here, we're very grateful to you.

And I thank those of you who have brought your children. I thank you for doing that because, after all, what we are celebrating today are actions taken to make the future of these children more secure, more rich, more full of

promise, more dependent upon their own abilities and not the whims of some dictator who would seek to advance the cause of his or her power at the expense of their dreams. So I'm very, very glad to see all of you here today.

Let me begin by thanking our delegation. I thank Secretary Albright for bringing her personal life story and her vision into her work every day. I thank Secretary Cohen for his leadership at the Defense Department and for helping us to prove that our politics can still stop at the water's edge and we can work across party lines to do what's right for America.